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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/560,396	11/02/2006	Ping Li	021238-832	1054
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EXAMINER				
NGUYEN, PHU HOANG				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1791				
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
04/19/2010		ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

ADIPFDD@bipc.com
offserv@bipc.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/560,396

Applicant(s)

LI ET AL.

Examiner

PHU H. NGUYEN

Art Unit

1791

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 January 2010.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 10, 17, 21, 31, 32, 35, 37, 39, 40, 47, 53, 62-64, 73, 74 and 79-81 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 31, 32, 35, 37, 39, 40, 47, 53, 62-64, 73, 74 and 79-81 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 10, 17 and 21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-946)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1/20/2010
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 2 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Snaidr et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 20020062834).

Regarding claim 1, Snaidr discloses a smoking article comprising:

a tobacco rod (54, fig. 6) having a wrapper (10, fig. 6) formed around the tobacco rod, the wrapper including a patterned (18, fig. 6) deposit on at least a portion of one surface of the wrapper,

wherein the pattern deposit comprises catalyst particles of catalyzing, oxidizing and/or reducing the conversion of a constituent gas component in the mainstream and/or sidestream smoke of the smoking article (abstract and paragraph 57).

Regarding claim 2, Snaidr discloses the smoking article wherein the constituent gas component is carbon monoxide and/or nitric oxide (paragraph 82).

Regarding claim 17, Snaidr discloses the smoking article wherein the wrapper is a first wrapper and the smoking article further comprises a second wrapper (paragraph 26).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Snaidr et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 20020062834) in view of Smith (U.S. Patent No. 3636027). Snaidr does not disclose the oxide catalyst is supported. Smith discloses a catalyst system can be self supported or deposited on a support or carrier for dispersing the catalyst system to increase its effective surface. Calcium carbonate is one of the useful compound as carrier (column 7, lines 49-55). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to support the catalyst on a compound such as calcium carbonate to increase its effective surface as taught by Smith.

Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Snaidr et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 20020062834). Snaidr discloses loading catalyst to the wrapper from one end to the other end (see fig. 1) but does not expressly disclose separate loading of catalyst on the wrapper, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to load the catalyst on one end of the wrapper and then load the catalyst on the other end of the wrapper because selection of any order of performing process steps is prima facie obvious in the absence of new or unexpected results. See also *In re Burhans*, 154 F.2d 690, 69 USPQ 330 (CCPA 1946).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 1/20/2010 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant essentially argues that Snaidr discloses the catalyst composition can be sprayed onto either or both sides of the cigarette paper and absorbed into the paper; extruded as a film to the surface of the paper; coated by a roller applicator; incorporated during paper making process; or sandwiched between paper layers to form a double cigarette paper wrap (paragraph 0066-0068; figs. 1-5) but does not disclosed or suggest a patterned deposit of the catalyst on a cigarette paper. Upon consideration, the examiner found that when a catalyst composition is sprayed onto a cigarette paper and absorbed into the paper meet the claimed patterned deposit of the catalyst on a cigarette paper (under broadest reasonable interpretation of the claim; also see figs 1-5 of Snaidr). Therefore, Snaidr et al. anticipate claims 1, 2 and 17.

Regarding claim 10, Applicant argues that Snaidr's catalyst comprises particle of a first oxide that can be supported on particles of the adjunct and the Office Action failed to show the calcium carbonate described in Smith satisfies all requirements for the adjunct called for in Snaidr. Upon further consideration, the Examiner found that even without the reference of Smith the reference of Snaidr would suggest the claimed feature of claim 10, since it does not require the second compound comprises calcium carbonate. Also, as taught by Smith calcium carbonate is a useful carrier for catalyst therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to support the catalyst of Snaidr on calcium carbonate as taught by

Smith. Furthermore, the reference of Snaidr does not teach away from using calcium carbonate therefore it does not prohibit the combination as presented. In response to applicant's arguments against the references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

Regarding claim 21, in addition to the features discussed above for claim 10, Applicant further argues that Snaidr discloses spraying a composition onto either side or both sides of the cigarette paper but does not disclose any steps using compositions with different loadings of catalyst for spraying. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to load the catalyst on one end of the wrapper and then load the catalyst on the other end of the wrapper because selection of any order of performing process steps is *prima facie* obvious in the absence of new or unexpected results. See also *In re Burhans*, 154 F.2d 690, 69 USPQ 330 (CCPA 1946). It is also noticed that the claimed invention does not require the first loading of catalyst and the second loading of catalyst to have a different loadings as the argument presented. Therefore, even if it is only obvious that the amount of loading is the same for the first and second loading, it would still meet the claimed invention.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to PHU H. NGUYEN whose telephone number is (571)272-5931. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Phillip Tucker can be reached on 571-272-1095. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

P.N 4/9/2010

/Philip C Tucker/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1791